Section I: Additional

Use section I for any additional comments or explanation you may wish to offer. Cross-reference to relevant earlier pages. See Note 15.

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#	Notes

Schwa (unstressed syllables) - A large number of divergent pronunciations actually arise from the fact that the unstressed syllable is pronounced only slightly differently, eg <surplus>, where British tend to treat the second syllable as schwa (/@/) and Americans pronounce the unstressed syllable as /V/. In such cases, TSR sees no need to change the TS spelling, leaving different dialects to retain their slightly different pronunciations.

Predictable variance - Longman's list of English phonemes shows the following <u>consistent</u> variances as between British and American pronunciation:

'lot', 'odd', 'wash' British /Q/ American: /A/

TSR maintains the common grapheme <o> for these sounds. The elision of the two sounds is not complete in American / Canadian pronunciation. Also a single grapheme would represent a major change from TS and would be difficult to gain acceptance throughout the ESW.

'goat', 'show', 'no' British: /@U/ American: /oU)/

The difference in pronunciation as between British and American is too slight to warrant different graphemes: <o(e)> is used for both.

'square', ' fair', 'various', nurse', 'stir' 'near', 'here'

These are examples of rhotic divergence. Some English speakers suppress the /r/ in words such as 'farm' or 'heather'; most do not (eg Scottish, West Country (UK), American). TSR keeps the <r> in the knowledge that rhotic and non-rhotic speakers will interpret the grapheme in accordance with their own traditions.

The 'bath' words

This covers combinations of <a> with <-sc>, <-sp>, <-nt>, <-ft>,<-ns>,<-st> etc. also sometimes <aff> and <ass>. RP pronounces the <a> in these circumstances as /A:/. Other accents, including US/Can and many British ones, pronounce the <a> as /{/ - thus 'clasp', 'flask', 'aunt', 'daft', 'chance', 'bath, and 'staff'. TSR uses <a> in these instances in the knowledge that RP speakers will continue to interpret <a> as /A:/ and most others as /{/. Generally TS <a> on its own is treated by TSR as representing /{/.

Unpredictable variance - 'yod' dropping

This refers to words such as 'duty', 'news', 'tune' etc. US / Can pronounciation of <u> in some cases comes out as /u:/. Other traditions, including British, insert a /j/ before /u:/. TSR does not allocate different spellings to these words as this would greatly increase the number of variant spellings - there are about 50 such words in frequent usage not including compounds. Equally, requiring non-Americans to adopt a spelling based on a pronunciation so distinctively different from their own might hinder acceptance of the scheme outside the USA. contd on p.8

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